

Magyar Kodály Társaság / Hungarian Kodály Society
From the President's report about the year of 2015 for the IKS Board

Official contact person's name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail

Dr. Mihály Ittzés, president,

Society's office: Magyar Kodály Társaság – H-1064 Budapest, Vörösmarty utca 35.

Tel./Fax:+36-1/322-1802 - e-mail: magyar.kodaly@lisztakademia.hu

The Board of directors

honorary president:

SAROLTA KODÁLY-PÉCZELY singer

president:

Dr. MIHÁLY ITTZÉS PhD, fellow of the Hungarian Artistic Academy

co-presidents:

ÉVA KOLLÁR DLA chorus master, fellow of the Hungarian Artistic Academy

JUDIT HARTYÁNYI chorus master, ret. associate professor

honorary co-president:

ERZSÉBET SZÓNYI composer, professor em., member of Hungarian Artistic Academy

members of presidency:

LENKE IGÓ chorus master

ZSOLT JÁMBOR chorus master

ATTILA KERTÉSZ chorus master, professor of the University of Pécs

KLÁRA MÁRKUS-NATTER-NÁD music writer

ÁGNES NAGY-NYÁRI music teacher

ERNŐ NAGY chorus master

CSILLA ÓRI chorus master

ÉVA ROZGONYI chorus master, professor em.

FERENC SAPSZON chorus master

PAULA SOMORJAI singer, chorus master

Dr. OLGA SZALAY PhD ethnomusicologist

delegated member of presidency:

ANDREA BREINICH-HORVÁTH chorus master, music teacher

secretary: ZSUZSANNA KENDE

Current number of members by category (individual, institutional, etc.)

Individual members: 750, including honorary members

Institutional: 15

The activities of the HKS during the past year

The HKS had some important events, besides the traditional Kodály memorial day celebrations and/or concerts (March 6 and December 16).

Budapest

February – a new series of live interviews / discussions with our honorary members was started at the lecture hall of the Kodály Memorial Museum. The first guests were Prof. *Erzsébet Szőnyi* and composer *János Decsényi*. In April *dr. László Eősze* and *Mrs Ilona Sebestyén-Farkas*, music teacher and choir conductor were invited, in May – after the General Assembly – *Prof. Miklós Perényi*, the famous cellist was the guest with his pianist son, *Benjamin Perényi*.

In November *Prof. István Párkai*, conductor and *Prof. Csaba Onczay* cellist were the partners in the discussion, led by *Mihály Ittész*.

Kecskemét – An important program was an in-service course for classroom and singing-music teachers (Spring semester). On December 17 local amateur choirs gave a concert with Kodály works and some contemporary compositions on the program.

Nyíregyháza – a series of musical meetings were held.

In October there was the 2nd conference on Music education and amateur musical movement. A short excursion and an excellent concert at the Kodály School (conducted by Dénes Szabó) was also included in the program.

Pécs – several members of the HKS led workshops, gave lectures and/or conducted concerts at the Europa Cantat. Independent programs and memorial events were also organized.

Szeged – a competition of bicinium-singing, and memorial events were held.

Veszprém county – Singing Youth concerts and an amateur adult choir meeting were organized (together with the Association of Choirs). A Kodály Workshop in a small traditional village was organized again. – „From Palestrina to Kodály” – a playful musical competition involved 7 schools of Veszprém county and was led by the 90- year old music teacher and „quiz-master”, Károly Varga.

The Board had 7 meetings. In some cases we had guests to talk about various questions of musical life and/or music education.

Four issues of *A Magyar Kodály Társaság Hírei / News of the Hungarian Kodály Society* were issued during the past year. On the homepage of the HKS we also published some studies besides news and reports on our activities. Earlier issues of the News can be found in the e-Archives of the homepage.

The General Assembly in May elected new honorary members:

Michalis Patseas – immediate past president of the IKS

László Heltay – conductor, a former leader of the Merton College Kodály Choir in Oxford, Bristol Festival Chorus, etc.

Mária Domokos and *Katalin Paksa* – ethnomusicologists, co-workers of the folk music research department at the HAS Institute of Musicology, editors of the complete edition of Hungarian Folk Songs

Nándor Heltai – journalist, cultural historian, author of the book Zoltán Kodály and his native town, Kecskemét

László Tardy – regens chori of the Matthias (Our Blessed Lady) Church at Buda Castle.

Artistic and state awards:

Prof Erzsébet Szőnyi, honorary vice president of the HKS received the „ruby diploma” of the Liszt Academy (she got her first degree there 70 years ago!)

Éva Kollár, choir conductor, professor of the Liszt Academy, vice-president of the HKS received the Commander’s Cross of the Hungarian Award

Ferenc Sapszon, choir conductor, artistic director of the Kodály Zoltán Hungarian Choir School, member of the Board of the HKS was awarded the Kossuth prize;

Péter Ordasi, professor of the Debrecen University Music Institute and conductor of the Szeged Bartók Female Choir (a former member of the board of the HKS) was awarded a Liszt prize.

Judit Hartványi was elected an honorary member of the IKS.

In November a special greeting program and reception was given by the minister of human resources, Mr Zoltán Balog, on the occasion of the 75th birthday of *Mrs Sarolta Kodály*. She was also greeted by the president of the Hungarian Academy of Arts and one of the vice presidents of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The Kodály Zoltán Hungarian Choir Competition organized by the Association of the Hungarian Choirs, Orchestras and Folk music ensembles also took place in November. According to the jury's decision two choir conductors (one of them from Slovakia) got a *Kodály medal* which were offered by the HKS for appreciation of excellent performances of Kodály's works at the competition.

At the final concert of the Europa Cantat in Pécs the Minister of Human Resources who is also responsible for education and culture, announced in a video-message a new program: *Daily singing in schools*. This does not mean daily music lessons but is going to be a free program. A committee of the program was formed in October under the presidency of the secretary of state for culture, *dr. Péter Hoppál* (who is a music teacher, choir conductor, and has a DLA in church music). The members of the committee are: honorary president *Mrs Sarolta Kodály*; regular members: *prof. dr. Andrea Vigh*, Rector of the Liszt Academy, *dr. László Norbert Nemes*, Director of the Kodály Institute, *dr. Zsuzsa Mindszenty*, associate professor at the Music Department of Budapest Eötvös University, choir conductor, President of the Choir Association, *Tamás Vásáry*, pianist, conductor, music director of the Hungarian Radio Orchestra and *dr. Mihály Ittzés*, president of the HKS. (A reeport about the aims and preparation of the program can only be given later.)

Plans and activities for 2016 include

Budapest: The series of *Ways to Kodály* will be continued this year.

4th Meeting of Chamber Singing Groups of schools named after Kodály.

Kecskemét: Concerts for students and the general public by the Kodály String Quartet in February; in-service course for school music teachers and classroom teachers; an open Singing Day in September; Kodály concert in December.

Nyíregyháza: „music club meetings” 6 times; 3rd conference on music education.

Pécs: Concerts for students and adults by the Kodály String Quartet in March; December 15 – choir concert (festival) at the Basilica (organized together with the Choir Association).

Szeged: preparatory course for a „Kodály competition/game” for teachers (it will be held in 2017 for children); bicinium-tricinium singing competition – duets/trios from Csongrád County and Szeged.

Veszprém: Singing Youth concerts and a meeting for amateur choirs (organized together with the Choir Association); a 4-day Kodály Workshop for teachers and choir leaders at Magyarpolány.

The HKS offers diplomas and prizes for various choir and other events as appreciation of best performances of Kodály's works at the event.

Preparation of programs and co-operation with other organizations for the 2017 Kodály Year will also be an important task for the Board.

Suggestions for the Board of the IKS and for the national bodies:

International co-operation can be formed to prepare and organize common programs, various events in 2017, in the „Kodály year” (50th anniversary of Kodály's death, 135th anniversary of his birth).

February 29, 2016

dr. Mihály Ittzés president